

WASHINGTON – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) today told members of the Alabama Farmers Federation (ALFA) that “we are in a battle” with federal regulators over rules that are imposing burdensome and unnecessary costs on farmers and rural communities.

Bachus discussed the impact of regulations proposed by the EPA and other federal agencies during a breakfast talk held as part of ALFA’s annual Washington Legislative Conference.

“Federal regulators don’t understand the impact their mandates have on our farmers and rural communities. The EPA alone is imposing a flood of rules, which range from treating farm dust as air pollution to telling volunteer fire departments that their new trucks must have \$30,000 exhaust filters that could cause the trucks to shut down during fire calls. Other restrictions have even limited teenagers from doing traditional chores on family farms. My experience is that our farmers are great stewards of the environment precisely because they appreciate that their living comes from the land,” said Congressman Bachus.

Bachus cosponsored and voted for a bill (H.R. 1633) to prevent farm dust from being regulated as particulate matter. He has also voted for legislation (H.R. 2631) to prevent the EPA from imposing costly new cement regulations that are threatening major employers like National Cement in Ragland and Lehigh Hanson in Leeds.

Congressman Bachus also addressed the sharp increase in gasoline prices affecting farmers, businesses, and families in Alabama.

“It is a matter of national security that we build the Keystone pipeline with Canada. This would bring up to one million barrels of oil a day to the U.S. from a faithful friend and reduce our dangerous reliance on oil from the Middle East. President Obama should not continue to block the construction of the pipeline,” Bachus said.

More than 100 farmers from Alabama are participating in the visit to Washington.